

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
SP-02 SES-02 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9321  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4839

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PEPR, LE, SY  
SUBJECT: REMARKS OF AMINE GEMAYEL

1. SUMMARY. AMIN GEMAYEL TOLD EMBOFF THE FOLLOWING  
AUGUST 19. THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE WOULD NOT LAST UNLESS THERE  
WERE TALKS ON A NATIONAL POLITICAL SOLUTION. THE SITUATION  
ON THE GROUND IN EAST BEIRUT WAS NOT GOOD. THE SYRIANS HAD  
VIOLATED AT LEAST THE SPIRIT OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT,  
AND THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS HAD BUILT BARRICADES FACING THE  
SYRIAN POSITIONS IN WESTERN ASHRAFIYAH. THE ISRAELIS WERE  
VERY DIFFICULT ALLIES. PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD COMPLAINED  
PRIVATELY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD PUSHED THE GOL TO SEND  
THE LEBANESE ARMY SOUTH. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET EARLY EVENING AUGUST 19 WITH AMIN GEMAYEL AT  
LATTER'S OFFICE IN JDEIDE. GEMAYEL SAID THE FOLLOWING:

3. HE AND DANY CHAMOUN WERE DOING ALL IN THEIR POWER TO MAIN-  
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TAIN THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE, BUT IT WAS VERY FRAGILE. IT  
WOULD NOT LAST UNLESS TALKS WERE BEGUN SOON ON SOME SORT OF  
NATIONAL POLITICAL ENTENTE FOR LEBANON. SUCH AN ENTENTE WOULD  
HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR A DECENTRALIZED POLITICAL SYSTEM TO BE  
SATISFACTORY TO THE PHALANGE.

4. THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN EAST BEIRUT WAS NOT GOOD.

-- THE SYRIANS HAD PUT UP A NUMBER OF NEW POSITIONS IN THE WESTERN PART OF ASHRAFIYAH OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE RIZK TOWER. THE AUGUST 9 DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAD NOT EXPLICITLY FORBIDDEN THE SYRIANS TO ESTABLISH POSITION OUTSIDE THIS IMMEDIATE VICINITY, BUT ALSO HAD NOT EXPLICITLY ALLOWED THEM TO DO SO. AS A RESULT THE PHALANGE BELIEVED THE SYRIANS WERE VIOLATING THE SPIRIT IF NOT THE LETTER OF THE AGREEMENT.

-- MILITIAMEN WERE STILL CARRYING WEAPONS ON THE STREETS OF ASHRAFIYAH, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE OBEYING THE CEASE-FIRE. IN ADDITION, THE MILITIA HAD PUT UP BARRICADES AND POSITIONS NEAR THE NEW POSITIONS THE SYRIANS HAD ESTABLISHED IN WESTERN ASHRAFIYAH. AS A RESULT, THE TWO SIDES WERE STARING DOWN EACH OTHER'S THROATS.

-- ALTHOUGH LEBANESE GENDARMES HAD REPLACED THE SYRIANS ON THE QARANTINA BRIDGE, THIS WAS NOT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. THERE HAD TO BE A "REAL FORCE" ON THE BRIDGE, SUCH AS THE SAUDIS OR SUDANESE, SINCE THE SYRIANS REMAINED WITHIN 200 METERS OF THE BRIDGE.

-- IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE SYRIANS HAD NOT GIVEN UP ANYTHING AS A RESULT OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. IN FACT, THEY HAD STRENGTHENED AND CONSOLIDATED THEIR MILITARY POSITIONS IN  
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ASHRAFIYAH.

5. THE PHALANGE PARTY WAS NEVERTHELESS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE PORT OPEN. AS A SYMBOL OF THIS DETERMINATION, PHALANGE PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL HAD TOURED THE PORT SHORTLY BEFORE THE FIRING INCIDENT ON AUGUST 18. (PRESS REPORTS CONFIRM HIS VISIT.) AMIN SAID EITHER THE SYRIANS OR "ANOTHER FACTION" (PRESUMABLY MEANING BACHIR) WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIRING. (COMMENT: ON AUGUST 21 THE PORT OPENED BUT WAS AGAIN STRUCK BY AN PRC ROUNDS. END COMMENT.)

6. AMIN SAID THE ISRAELIS WERE NOW THE ONLY PEOPLE WILLING TO HELP THE CHRISTIANS. THE ISRAELIS WERE, HOWEVER, "VERY DIFFICULT ALLIES: THE DEVOUR YOU."

7. AMIN EXPRESSED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE CLAIMED WE HAD TO HELP THE LEBANESE FIND A SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEMS, BUT HAD SO FAR FAILED TO DO SO. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AT LEAST THE SIXTH FLEET WOULD EVACUATE THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS WHEN THE END CAME, JUST AS THE AMERICANS HAD EVACUATED THE VIETNAMESE. (BACHIR MADE THE SAME REMARK TO EMBOFF ON AUGUST 16.)

8. FINALLY, AMIN NOTED THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD COMPLAINED PRIVATELY THAT U.S. HAD PUSHED GOL TO SEND LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH LEBANON. PRESIDENT ALSO ALLEGED THAT U.S. HAD TOLD GOL THAT ISRAELIS WOULD LET LEBANESE ARMY INTO SOUTH, WHEN IN FACT THIS WAS NOT TRUE. (COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS HAVE PUBLICLY COMPLAINED IN SIMILAR TERMS ABOUT U.S. ROLE IN ADVISING ARMY TO GO SOUTH. END COMMENT.) KINSOLVING

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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